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## **STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
27 JANUARY 1954



Jamaica Highway Travelling Post Office Type 1B

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**BULLETIN No. 198 SEPTEMBER 2003**

## **BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

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### **OBJECTS**

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
- 3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. Lists supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.
- 4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
- 5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

### **MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION**

MEMBERSHIP - is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTION -The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10.00 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £14 / \$20 for members who reside elsewhere.

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**PROGRAMME OF SOCIETY EVENTS**
**Biennial Convention**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2003 (at the end of Stampex).

To be held at the Honiley Court Hotel, Honiley, Warwick (telephone 01926 484474).



Web site at <http://www.corushotels.com/hotel.asp?hotelID=49>

Leaflet with details distributed with June Bulletin.

Hotel Bookings will now need to be made directly with the hotel and mention should be made of the BWISC party. Please also inform Peter Boulton of your intended attendance

**AGM & Annual Auction**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004

Please send list of auction lots to Simon Goldblatt at 39 Essex Street, London WC2.

**Golden Jubilee 2004**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004.

The Circle will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2004 and is planning a two-day event at the Royal Philatelic Society on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and at Spink on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>, with a dinner on the intervening evening. More details to follow.....

**Publication Timetable**

December Issue – The contents will be finalised 26<sup>th</sup> October 2003, so please provide contributions ahead of this date.

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

By the time you read this, preparations will be well under way for our Convention at the Honiley Court Hotel, Honiley, Warwickshire. If there are any members, within reasonable driving distance and who have never attended a Convention before and who have any doubts about attending, can I implore you to come along. It doesn't matter that you haven't booked, we will be only too glad to greet you. I remember when I was a tyro collector of BWI stamps (some say I still am), I was very reticent to come to the Convention. I need not have worried. I have attended every Convention for the last 14 years and have enjoyed each one. Even if you feel that you are a very new collector, there are plenty of members around to help and encourage you in your interests. Come along, we will welcome you with open arms.

On another subject: the Study Circle relies on its members to ensure its smooth running. The present Committee put an enormous amount of effort into making sure that events, such as the Convention, are successful. However, we need more of our members to come forward to help. In particular, we need people who are competent on computers and are on the Internet to assist in various small ways. Please, if you think you can help, contact one of the Committee. There is no obligation if you do; just find out what is required and maybe you can help what is, after all, your Study Circle. I am sure that those that can help, will.

Peter Ford

**EDITOR'S COMMENTS****Feedback on Articles - Barbados Officers Rate by Fitz Roett**

Thanks to Geoffrey Osborn of Poole who supplied a photocopy of the Post Office Notice, dated September 1869 giving details of the withdrawal of the Officer's rate at the end of 1869.

**Web Site**

The Montserrat Philatelic Bureau have asked me to publicise the existence of their web site at:  
<http://www.montserratstampbureau.com/>

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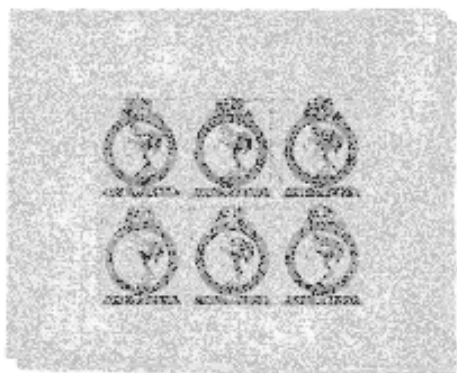
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NJ 07450, U.S.A.  
Tel: 0101-201-848-8823  
Fax: 0101-201-847-8481



# Auction – 6 November

**The next Grosvenor sale of Great Britain and All World Postage Stamps and Postal History will be held on 6 November at our new offices in the Strand.**

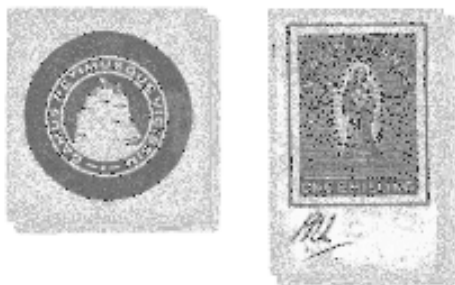


The Spring auction on 15 and 16 May was the first to be held in Grosvenor's new premises. It was a record breaking sale with realisations totaling £889,727

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## CAYMAN ISLANDS

### EAST END POST OFFICE - A FOLLOW UP

BY GRAHAM BOOTH

I can add very little to Kevin Darcy's article about the early years except to say that by 1927 Captain Jennett must have been quite an old man and his memory may have been at fault; alternatively he may have had a different understanding of what we would call foreign mail. It is clear that in 1901 there was no inland mail and that East End dealt exclusively with mail that went by sea, what little there was. There is on file in the Cayman Archives a letter that went from East End to Georgetown to the Commissioner in June 1907 "forwarded by mail per sloop Primrose", and it is most unlikely that the small cat boats and canoes that plied along the southern coast of Grand Cayman carried mail for foreign destinations and did not carry domestic mail as well.

The closure of the East End Post office in early 1908 is well documented. However there has been no mention in the literature before now that Commissioner Hirst also closed the Boddentown office in July 1907. What appears to have happened, though there is some speculation involved, is that Yorke Slader acting as Commissioner, established an inland post in 1906, based on a design laid out by Sanguinetti before his death. For reasons that are not at all clear Hirst closed it down, replacing it with his own scheme based on the wagon, after a six month gap when again there was no internal post except for that which was carried by sea. This scheme, with the Rural Post hand stamps that accompanied it, is again well documented. The Boddentown office was reopened in 1908, but it is not clear what happened at East End. In late 1908 Hirst ordered identical cancellers for Georgetown and Boddentown which were delivered in January 1909, but there was nothing for East End. In May 1909 Hirst wrote to Cornwell Watler, the Collector at East End saying that he wanted to re-open the office along the same lines that existed at Boddentown, and offered him the job as Postmaster. It is not clear, but it is likely that Watler turned down the offer and that there was no office at East End until Watler accepted an offer from Hutchings after Hirst's death. This does not mean that there were no postal facilities. Clearly the local police constable sold stamps and collected and delivered letters using the Rural Post hand stamp, but it is debateable whether letters were regarded as being in the hands of the official post office until they reached Boddentown, which is why most East End Rural Post covers also carry a Boddentown cancel on the front as opposed to a transit stamp on the rear. (The same is true of the West Bay mail until it reached Georgetown.)

Hutchings, although only acting Commissioner, completely reorganised the local delivery service in 1913, and fortunately the entire correspondence setting it up still exists. He added a delivery at North Side, appointed Watler at East End, Estelle Connor at Boddentown and Hubert Ebanks at West Bay as sub-postmasters. In addition he wrote to the police constables giving them instructions to hand in all their postal equipment including the Rural Post hand stamps, and asked them to write to him confirming that they had done this. As a consequence it is no surprise that these cancels cease in 1913/14. What is a surprise is that the East End mark resurfaces in 1916, with at least 4 extant letters, all addressed to E N McLaughlin. McLaughlin was an interesting character. He was the local school teacher at East End, and judging by his letters highly intelligent and articulate. He was an elected member of the Vestry, and the first person, as far as I am aware, to style himself with the modern day tag of M L A Member of the Legislative Assembly. Hutchings made an enemy out of him almost as soon as he arrived on the island.

He appointed Arthur Bodden's daughter Amy to be Clerk to the Commissioner, and another daughter, Rhoda, to replace her as Assistant Postmistress, without advertising the positions as being vacant. McLaughlin wanted a job for his own daughter. The situation was not helped by McLaughlin having an extremely inaccurate, if very modern, understanding of how the colonial system worked. In practice there was an administrator who made all the decisions which were later rubber stamped by the Vestry, with one important exception, control of finances and taxation. McLaughlin took the view of a modern parliamentarian that the executive branch was there to implement the decisions of the Assembly. For instance he severely criticised Hutchings for sending £10,000 worth of stamps that he found in an unlocked cupboard in an unlocked room in Hirst's residence to the Stamp Commissioner in Jamaica for safe keeping. In McLaughlin's view he had no authority to take such action without the approval of the Vestry - a position at the time which was quite untenable. Another issue was E S Parsons who had immediately assumed responsibility after Hirst's death. McLaughlin was furious that a payment of £35 had been made to Parsons as an

honorarium for his services without the approval of the Assembly, though he would have been on stronger grounds if he had focussed on the void in the constitutional arrangements for the Islands which said nothing about what happened if the Commissioner was incapacitated for any reason, a problem which was later resolved by the creation of a dormant commission which could be activated at any time, which was given to the Medical Officer, Dr. Overton. McLaughlin died at the end of the decade, I think in 1919.

The sudden emergence of the East End Rural Post hand stamp in 1916 after a gap of two years has to raise questions about its legitimacy, especially as there are only four letters extant, and all are addressed to McLaughlin. The condition of the stamp in 1916 has deteriorated considerably, but this may have been the result of storage in tropical conditions rather than use. The covers were rather carelessly created, are in somewhat worse condition than the other Rural Post covers addressed to known philatelic addresses, and are addressed in different hands. As the East End circular date stamp seems to have disappeared from view about this time, quite legitimately the Rural Post hand stamp may have been redeemed from storage to replace the circular stamp which had been lost or damaged. Unfortunately the Archives provide no help in understanding what happened; why the Rural Post stamp disappeared as quickly as it had appeared, and why the postal authorities appear to have found it unnecessary to have any East End cancel from 1916 to the late 1920's. One can only presume that letters which originated at East End were not cancelled until they reached Boddentown.

## **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

### **DO ANY COMMERCIAL MP2s EXIST?**

**BY JOHN BYL**

In June 1908 the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, Mr. S.S. Hirst, introduced a new local postal rate of ¼d for postcards and each two ounces of printed matter. In so doing he was probably following the example of some neighbouring West Indies islands. A supply of ¼d adhesives had been ordered earlier in the year and was placed on sale on 30th June. In spite of a notice dated 10th July that they were to be sold only over the counter of a Cayman Islands post office, and were to be used solely for internal postage, large numbers found their way to overseas dealers. The outflow of these stamps from the Islands increased when permission was given for them to be used on overseas mail as the supply of ½d stamps had run out. In practice ¼d stamps were used to replace other denominations as well and in many cases accounted for the total postage. Covers so franked were often philatelic and it is therefore no surprise that they can be found quite easily today.

On the 1st October the Postmistress, Miss G.A. Parsons, resigned. She had been involved in the production of five surcharge provisionals and one manuscript provisional (MP1) during the previous thirteen months. This had attracted much criticism and it is likely that she was not too unhappy to hand over her responsibilities to a new Postmaster, Mr W.G. McCausland, and to become his assistant.

Mr McCausland's start at Georgetown was not auspicious. Within two or three days of taking up his post the supply of ¼d stamps was finally exhausted. This left him in a dilemma. He had inherited a specific instruction arising from an official enquiry into the philatelic/financial manipulations involving the surcharges mentioned above. It was "to refrain from provisionals generally". However, he could reasonably argue that having been in office for so short a time, he could hardly be called to account for the lack of ¼d stamps. In any case he had no option but to disregard this edict and therefore decided to resort to a manuscript franking (MP2). As indicated above, this method had already been used by Miss Parsons and it had, inevitably, resulted in its quota of covers specially prepared for philatelists and for those hoping to make money from this latest provisional. During October three more types of Manuscript Provisional were produced and are listed in Gibbons as MP3, MP4 and MP5. These are rare and do not concern us here, but MP2 is not uncommon and most Caymans collectors will have one or more examples.

In theory the postcard to be sent by post would be taken to Georgetown post office where, on payment of ¼d, Mr McCausland put it in an envelope, sealed it, and endorsed it "Pd¼d/WGMC" usually in two lines. For the first few days magenta ink was used and thereafter a pink-red ink. The endorsement was then cancelled by the Georgetown Type 4 c.d.s. (fig.1) and the cover put in the postal system to be sent via the daily delivery service which had been started in Georgetown in June of that year. The few destined for outside the town were delivered by the Rural Post which had been initiated in early 1907. This method of dealing with postcards would have ensured that no letter could be posted for a ¼d instead of the local letter rate of ½d. The Manuscript Provisional period started on 4th October and ended on 3rd November with the arrival of a fresh supply of ¼d stamps. However, the last known date for a surviving MP2 is 27th October.



Fig. 1

In the previous paragraph I have described the procedure which was probably intended and which may indeed have taken place for the first few days. As we shall see, what actually happened was rather different.

Over many years I have collected details of 76 MP2s and am sure that others are still to be found. Although the numbers of new examples that come to light diminish year by year it would probably be a futile exercise to try to estimate the total number that survive. It is revealing to list the known examples by date.

In addition to those in the table there are two with unreadable dates. A question mark indicates a doubt regarding the date, usually because it is difficult to read from an illustration. Examples described as dated OC 4 are sometimes in fact OC 14. The '1' of '14' can show poorly and occasionally only the very top tip of the '1' is visible. To be OC 4 (and OC 6) the endorsement must be in magenta.

Date October	Number known
4th	5
6th	4
13th	1
14th	27

Date October	Number known
15th?	1
16th	34
17th?	1
27th	1

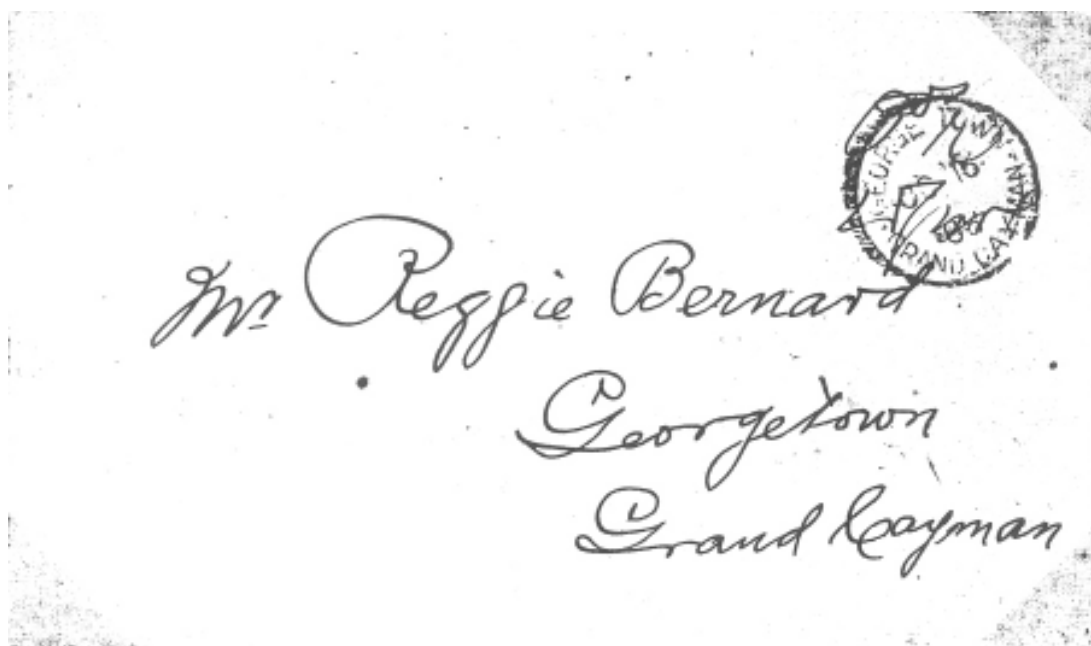


Figure 2



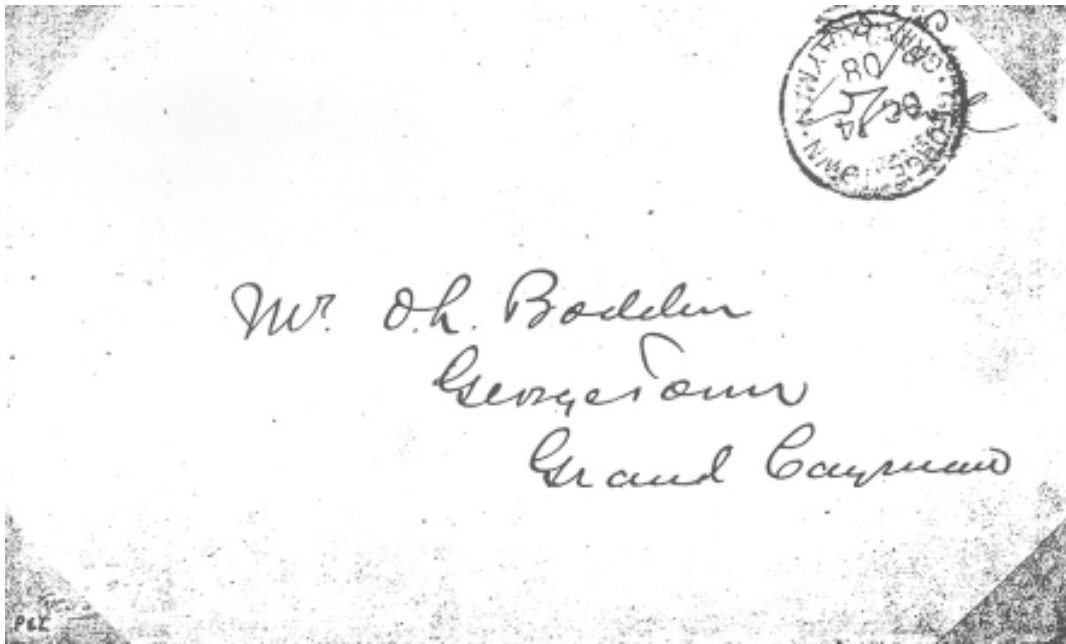


Figure 3

An examination of the addresses shows that 53 are written by Mr. McCausland (fig.2), 8 by another person (fig.3) and 7 by other people. Catalogue descriptions or partial illustrations of a further 8 are insufficient to reveal the identity of the writer. Of the 8 MP2s written by another person 4 have the word "Merchant" under the address, another "Registrar" and a sixth "Notary Public". One possibility is that this person may have been acting as an agent for residents who could not get to the post office in opening hours because they had their own business to look after during that time, or for some other reason. This can be no more than speculation, but any other idea needs to explain why these covers are all dated the 14th or 16th.

We need to ask why so many residents of Georgetown should take to sending postcards to each other in mid-October 1908 when they could easily (and more cheaply) have delivered them by hand in that small town. If they had bought the cards for themselves, why take them to the post office and pay for them to be delivered by post? Further there are cases where individual MP2s have gone to married couples on the same date and also where, in at least one case, an individual has received three examples each postmarked on a different date. This suggests a pattern where the recipients were producing 'different' examples for philatelic purposes rather than receiving commercial mail which, in any event, would have been rare in 1908. Also we must bear in mind that only three surviving postcards are known from the following four years franked with ¼d stamps after these became available in early November 1908. Finally, we must not totally discount the possibility that some of the MP2s never did contain a card and that the Postmaster merely obliged by handing over an endorsed and postmarked envelope after adding the name and address. The only reasonable explanation is that many of the residents of the town would have learned from the 1907-8 surcharges that such curious philatelic items were worth having. The Postmaster would also have been aware of this (possibly warned by Miss Parsons) and the likely demand this provisional would engender. This had happened on a small scale during the previous May when MP1 was produced. At that time at least eleven examples were prepared for the philatelic market. Only two survive, which along with the commercial examples, make up the dozen or so MP1s in existence today. The fact that only two of the eleven or more contrived covers are left today suggests that the surviving numbers of MP1s and MP2s represent but a fraction of those produced.

The demand for these covers would have become even more apparent to Mr. McCausland after the first few days. Although he had an assistant he was a busy man; over 37,000 items of foreign mail alone were dispatched or received at Georgetown post office in the year 1908-9. Indeed it became necessary to take over a larger room as post office and also to acquire a second room (the Commissioner's office) for use as a sorting room.

The production of a provisional would have taken appreciably longer than selling a stamp, and on some days Mr. McCausland would have found it difficult to find the time to deal with such numbers of non-urgent mail. Lastly, it is necessary to explain why so many MP2s are in such fine condition and have the flap still stuck down.

To account for the above, the procedure involved in producing the MP2s was almost certainly very different from that suggested earlier. During the first few days the number of provisional covers was modest, but as demand grew it is likely that he needed to devise another more convenient method. On the 14th and 16th when perhaps he had more time, he prepared a large number of envelopes with his endorsement and also postmarked them, thus creating many MP2s with one or other of these dates. As all the addresses were "Georgetown, Grand Cayman" he may well have added the address at the same time. No MP2s are known for certain dated between the 6th & 13<sup>th</sup>. During this period all he had to do when asked for a provisional was to jot down the customer's name and ask him to call back in a few days i.e. after the batch of covers had been prepared, in order to pick up the provisional. Those who called at the post office after the envelopes had been prepared could be quickly dealt with as only the name needed to be added. Evidence supporting this shows on two covers where the name is written using a pen with a broader nib than that used for the address. This would suggest that the name and the address were written at different times. Miss Parsons lent a hand with one of them (fig.4) for it is one of the few provisionals where the endorsement is hers. The number of surviving provisionals with the flap still stuck down suggests that many may never have contained a card, as has already been suggested. A final piece of evidence to suggest that most, if not all, of the MP2s to Georgetown are philatelic is the very fine condition of so many. This indicates that they may never have gone through the post but merely handed over the post office counter to be well looked after by the recipients; residents would have been aware of the importance of condition to collectors.

It can never be certain that the scenario described above is what actually took place, nor are we likely to know after 95 years. Nevertheless, it does account for the peculiarities of these covers.

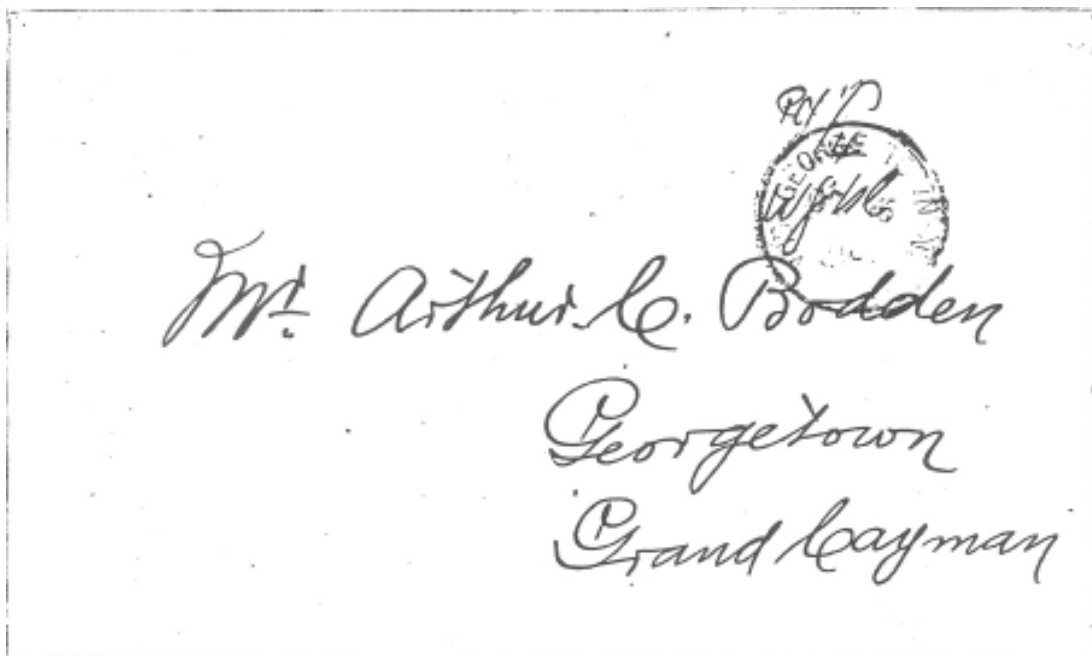


Figure 4

Before taking a look at the likely commercial examples it is necessary to examine two suggestions that have been put forward regarding these covers. The first is that the majority of MP2s did not contain cards as the envelopes were too small. These envelopes measure 6" by 3½". I have a postcard dated OC 7 1908 addressed to a postcard collector and have no reason to believe it is

other than normal size. Its dimensions are 5½" by just under 3½". It would easily fit into an envelope, allow the flap to be stuck down, and equally easily be extracted.

The second suggestion was that the envelope contained a message such as "a parcel is ready for collection at the post office", the message being written on a piece of paper. With 60 or so surviving MP2s by Mr McCausland, plus those survivors not yet come to light, plus an almost certainly much larger number which have not survived, there would have been an impressive number of parcels awaiting collection! But whatever the message was, only three cards franked with a single ¼d stamp are known dated during the two to three years after the arrival of fresh supply of this denomination at the beginning of November 1908. None bear a message from the post office. Either the postal authorities had abruptly ceased to advise customers of a waiting parcel or send any other message, or the above suggestion is unlikely to be correct.

To sum up: an MP2 is very probably philatelic, in the sense that it was produced in order to obtain an example of the provisional rather than a card, if it shows most or all of the following characteristics:-

1. The address is written by Mr. McCausland or 'A.N.Other'.
2. The covers bears a Georgetown address.
3. It is dated 14th or 16th October or, very probably the 4th or 6th.
4. It is in fine condition.
5. The flap has not been opened.

### Commercial MP2s

Having covered the background of the production of these provisionals it is now possible to examine the likely contenders for being commercial examples. Of the 76 known MP2s, 61 have been dealt with. It is impossible to reach firm conclusions regarding 8 of the other 15 as only the endorsement shows in the illustrations I have of them. However, all 8 are cancelled on the 16th with the postmark directly over the endorsement (see below for significance) which would suggest they also are philatelic.

This leaves 7 MP2s as possible commercial examples. Of these 6 are to Cayman Brac. They are addressed in three different hands, none of them the same as those used on the covers to Georgetown. Unfortunately, I have had the opportunity to examine only one (fig.5) but from illustrations, four at least seem to be in far from the usual fine condition; the one shown has a third of the back missing where it was roughly opened. The Mrs. Mott Trille to whom it was addressed was the wife of the doctor on Cayman Brac. He did not last long due to lack of patients. The covers to Cayman Brac share the peculiarity that, while the cancels on the prepared covers to Georgetown are invariably directly over the endorsement, four of these have the c.d.s. to the left hand side or below. This suggests that they were endorsed and cancelled when the senders took the cards to the post office i.e. at a different time from Mr. McCausland's "mass production". Taking all the evidence into consideration it is likely that some, perhaps all, of these covers to Cayman Brac are commercial.

We are now left with only one MP2 (fig. 6) to consider. It is dated the 27th October, the last known date. The envelope is a light brown colour and is not in fine condition, having a filing crease, one or two wrinkles and a few tone spots. It is addressed to Mrs. McIntosh, not one of the 'usual suspects'. It is addressed to Boddentown, unique for this provisional, and in a script different from that on any of the other MP2s. Finally, the flap has been opened. This one therefore has all the qualifications for being a commercial MP2, which it almost certainly is.

### Acknowledgements

1. My thanks to Graham Booth for kindly sending me details of his fine collection of MP2s.
2. The illustration of the Georgetown 4 c.d.s. is from the 'Cayman Islands' by E.F.Aguilar & P.T.Saunders.

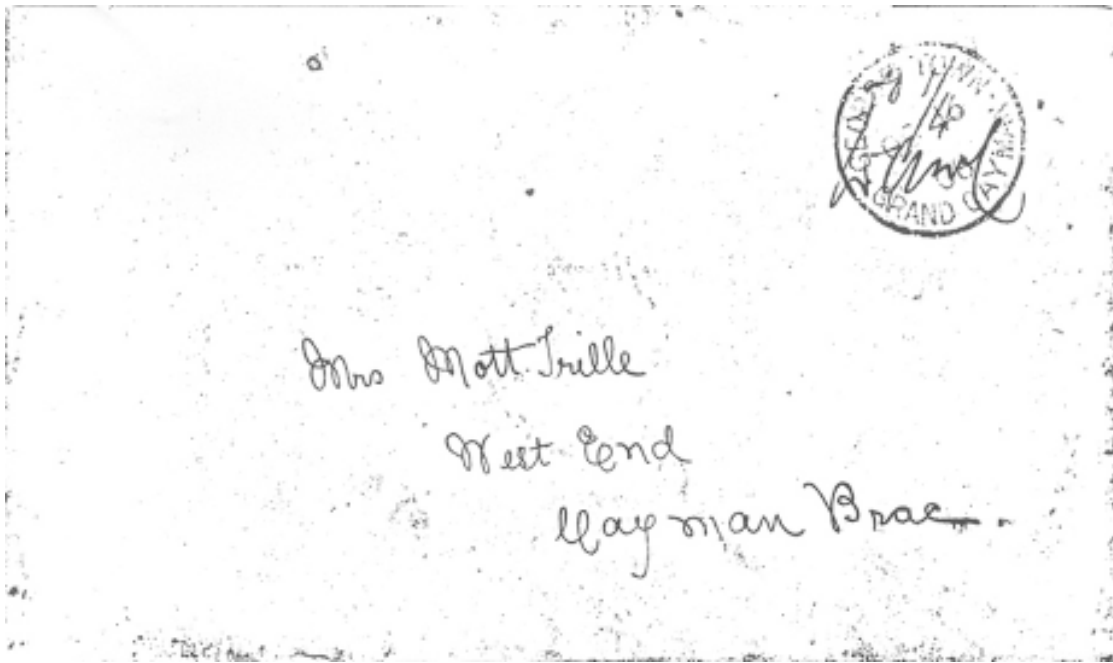


Figure 5

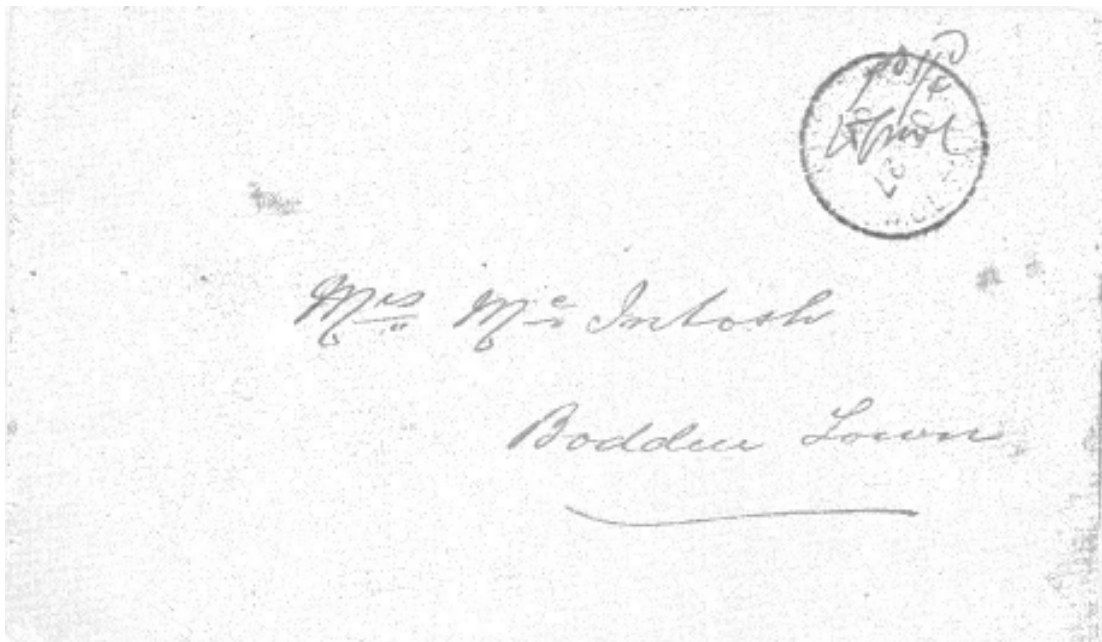


Figure 6

## GRENADA

### 1965 2c PROVISIONAL

By D. C. Ford

Adding to the observations on the 2c Grenada, given in the December Bulletin No. 191, I was advised by a friend in Grenada of the appearance of the provisional and under date of 24 Jan 66, (Figure 1) he sent me a couple of sheets for my collection. (Figure 2 A & 2 B). A little later I managed to acquire a further cover dated 19 Feb 66, (Figure 3).

Of additional interest, is the fact that on one of the sheets, (Figure 2A) stamps 39 and 40 are very weakly overprinted. On the second sheet (Figure 2B), stamp No. 39 the 2 has almost disappeared and on 40 a weaker overprint than on the first sheet.

The first cover has the stamps bearing cds's, plus a ball-point line through each stamp. The second cover has the cds's only. This former cover answers Andy Soutar's request for a view of a pen cancelled cover.

For the record the detail of the sheet make-up given in the December 2001 Bulletin was inverted. A close examination of my sheets confirms this. As well, stamp 39 is a second type, making 37 type 1 and 13 type II for the sheet make-up, and not as previously advised.

Top of sheet

		II	II	II					II
	II	II		II			II		
II									
	II							II	
							II		II

37 Type 1, 13 Type II

Table has been reversed in printing in the December 2001 Bulletin No. 191.

My cover dated 24 January 66 (Figure 1) bears a strip of four stamps types 11-11-1-11. These are respectively, row and stamp number 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/5. Interestingly these would help confirm the relative stamp placings, even if full sheets were not readily available.

At the time I was a member of the A. P. S. and recall a serious article on the subject of the Grenada 2c, shortly after the issue. As a result of many moves around the West Indies I no longer have the article. However, the author was firmly of the opinion that the postmaster's letter informing that the stamp was principally for revenue purposes, was generated by the stamp dealers when they found they could not obtain supplies of this issue. In effect, they sought to undermine the issue when it became apparent that they could not make a profit from it.

My own conclusion is that this stamp is a postage and revenue stamp and should receive appropriate stamp catalogue status, and not an indifferent footnote.

Ed. note: Charles Freeland has informed me that the above article is by Johnson, reference APS Vol. 80/3 p171-2.

Figure 2a



Figure 2b



Figure 2a

Positions  
39 / 40



Figure 2b





Figure 1



Figure 3

Saturday October 11 Sale to feature the international award winning collection of **Leeward Islands** formed by **Mike Oliver** containing important proof material and fine postal history. Also fine covers from the collections of **Dan Walker's Grenada** and **Peter McCann's Virgin Islands**. Other properties to include further items of **Antigua** from the collection of **Mark Swetland** and fine **St Vincent** classics, the property of a Yorkshire collector.

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- ANTIGUA 1859.** An entire letter to England rated 6d with red "PAID / AT / ANTIGUA" crowned circle, backstamped "ANTIGUA" double arc datestamp. £350
- GB-ANTIGUA 1860.** An entire letter sent to Antigua from Whitehaven,. franked 1855-57 6d lilac, clear 377 duplex cancel, and arrival backstamp. £95
- BAHAMAS 1908.** A "Hamburg-America Line" envelope to Germany, franked KEVII ½, 1, 2½, & 6d, each cancelled by clear strikes of "LONG CAY / BAHAMAS" cds. £250
- BAHAMAS 1916.** A cover to USA, franked 1d, cancelled by inverted but fine strike "MASTIC POINT / BAHAMAS" cds. £185
- BARBADOS 1892.** The 2s 6d blue-black & orange, watermark single crown CA (SG 114), an unmounted mint block of four from top right corner of left pane, with top & right (interpanneau) margins. £150
- BARBADOS 1897.** An official 'On Service' wrapper (from clerk of General Assembly) addressed locally at Harrison College, Barbados code B cds. £125
- CAYMAN ISLANDS 1926.** A part (4" x 2") of Parcel Post Customs Declaration form for 5 lbs parcel, franked 1922 2/- & 2d, cancelled "CAYMAN BRAC" cds. £250
- DOMINICA / LEEWARDS 1898.** An 1891 Leewards 2½d p.s. envelope to England cancelled "A 07" with "Portsmouth" (Dominica) and "Dominica" thimble cds alongside. £150

### Auction - 23 September 2003

Our next sale will include further material from the "Kenneth Griffith" collection of Boer War, with P.O.W. mail from Bermuda



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Stock		Price	Stock		Price
23358	1790 entire headed "Jamaica 7th Sept. 1790" to Newton Gordon and Johnston, Madeira marked " <b>p. Queen Charlotte Packet</b> " showing clear strikes "IAMAICA" (across flap) and circled "DE/21" (reverse). Docketed as received "15th Feb".	£65	24882	<b>MAYHILL</b> (P2a) SP 24 1855, superbly clear as an arrival mark displaying fully on lower flap of entire from Kingston SP 21 to A.C. Logan at May Hill P.O.	£65
23356	1801 clean incoming entire headed "Edinburgh 27th Feb. 1801" to David Milne, Commander of La Seine Frigate, care of James Dick, Naval Officer, Port Royal, Jamaica rated 4/4 showing "FE/28" and B/MAR 3 1801" red ink despatch marks. (David Milne captured the frigate "La Seine" off Brittany and took command. Later he became Admiral Sir David Milne and founded a naval family. His son became First Sea Lord of the Admiralty). Interesting contents.	£125	27812	1858 wrapper with heavily inked indistinct SAVANNAH-LA-MAR OC 25 1858 despatch datestamp (P2b) alongside GB 6d left to be tied light upright "A01" to Thomson Hankey in London. B/stamped Kingston OC 27 1858 and London DE 2 58 arrival. Pre-obliterator period.	£240
26508	<b>MONTEGO BAY</b> (T4a), very fine strike across flap on AU 2 1825 entire to Scotland.	£125	27627	1859 (MY 25) double rate cover to London with GB 6d horiz. pair clearly tied " <b>A75</b> " numerals. Fine and rare.	£400
23081	1830 entire headed "H.M.S. Magnificent, Port Royal 15th Oct. 1830" from Charles Coale Barry to Messrs. Cox & Son, London rated 2/2 unpaid. Lower flap displays good red boxed " <b>PACKET LETTER</b> " h/stamp, top flap with DE 10 30 arrival mark.	£80	23239	<b>FALMOUTH (unrecorded P9)</b> DE 23 62, very fine small dbl-arc datestamp clear of reverse flap on entire to John Jeffrey & Co in Edinburgh which has had a horizontal strip of six 1d Pines removed leaving the bearest trace of the "A38" (H) killer cancels.	£125
23326	1844 entire from "Spanish Town 29th June 1844" to Mrs. Johnston, Newport, Rhode Island marked per steamer "Amie" showing ALEXANDRIA D.C. cds dated AUG 9 and h/struck "SHIP" in same light greenish-brown, rated "27" in m/script.	£65	23240	1863 stampless cover (during adhesive period) to E.J. Ellis at Barclay & McDowall, Kingston with fine <b>MORANT-BAY</b> A/NO 20 63 despatch cds above address panel rated "3" unpaid. B/stamped Kingston A/NO 23 63 cds. Writer, James Munro, states "the weather is so very bad & all the roads are in bad order I am unable to send down my cart" which explains the three days for a distance of only 35 miles.	£160
26225	<b>DRY-HARBOUR</b> (P2b) JA 20 1845, fine upr. strike clear of address panel on wrapper to London rated blue ink 1/2. Attractive as such.	£120	23285	1864 mourning cover to Thomas Hendrick in Kingston with GB QV 6d tied Birkenhead "74" duplex dated 3/FE 29 64 (leap year). Alongside combined 2-line <b>DEFICIENT-POSTAGE 6d/ HALF-FINE 6d</b> with handstruck 1/- (applied London, Robertson Fig. D.5, Page E.197) subsequently deleted in pencil with "1/6" below. B/stamped Rock Ferry B/FE 29 64 and Kingston A/MR 21 64. Attractive.	£140
23157	<b>FALMOUTH-JAMAICA</b> (P4) SE 5 1846, very fine full above address on entire to Webster, Gordon, Copart in London rated 1/2.	£75	23105	1866 stampless cover (during adhesive period) to A. Carter in Montego Bay with <b>RAMBLE</b> O/JY 30 66 despatch cds on face (P10c, with Foster unlisted <u>year in two figures</u> ) rated "2" unpaid. B/stamped same day arrival. <b>Rare with index code.</b>	£165
23050	<b>PORUS</b> (P5) FE 6 1847, superb <u>exhibition</u> strike displaying full on top flap of wrapper docketed "Whitefield" to Rev. Tidman in London rated 1/2.	£175	24824	1870 cover to Lt. Col. Kent, 77th Regt Clarence Barracks, Portsmouth with fine bright colour horiz. pair QV 6d <b>deep purple</b> Pine (SG.5b) pmk'd Kingston A01 duplex 2A/OC 9 70 (later than Foster). B/stamped OC 31 70 arrival. Few covers bearing this shade thought to exist. Exhibition item.	£525
23068	<b>FALMOUTH-JAMAICA</b> (P4) JU 8 1851, fine full above address on incoming entire from London MY 16 1851 marked " <b>p. Thames</b> " to Pembroke Estate, Falmouth rated 4/8 changed 6/-.	£75	26222	1871 (JY 24) mourning cover to Lt. Col. Kent, Portsmouth with bright colour QV 4d red-orange Pine INVERTED wmk horiz. strip of three (some scissor-cut perfs) clearly tied "A42" numerals. B/stamped Gordon Town.	£180
24220	<b>BATH</b> dbl-arc (P2a) OC (2)4 1851, good full upr. alongside transit & arrival marks on upper flap of entire headed "Potosi" to Aberdeen rated 1/2 unpaid.	£24	23090	1/2d red/pale greyish blue Floriate Post Card pmk'd Kingston A 2/JY 21 77 cds addressed within town to Mary Lipman, East Water Lane. M/script "Can't be found 21.7.77" with red "UNCLAIMED" and black "ADVERTISED" and RETURNED LETTER BRANCH cancels.	£80
28103	<b>ST. ANNS BAY</b> dbl-arc AP 8 1853 good alongside address on prepaid 2/4 entire to London. Contents re outbreak of yellow fever.	£75	23224	1878 cover to C.F. Adams, Cincinnati with QV 6d mauve CC (SG.12) tied "A01" with Kingston A2/MY 23 78 despatch cds lower left corner.	£70
26371	<b>"PACKET LETTER/SOUTHAMPTON"</b> finely struck above address panel (Type P1, seldom seen on BWI mail) on mourning cover rated 1/- unpaid to Greenock indicating carried as a "loose letter" in the RMSP captain's bag. Mourning enclosure headed Spanish Town Nov. 26 1853. Cover has small opening fault at top.	£125			
24882	1853 (SP 21) entire from Kingston to AC Logan at May Hill P.O. rated "6" displaying superb <b>MAYHILL</b> SP 24 1855 (P2a) arrival lower flap.	£65			
23107	<b>FALMOUTH-JAMAICA</b> (P4a) JY 10 1855/0, very fine strike across flap of entire to Henry Thomas in London rated "6" unpaid. Scarce.	£120			

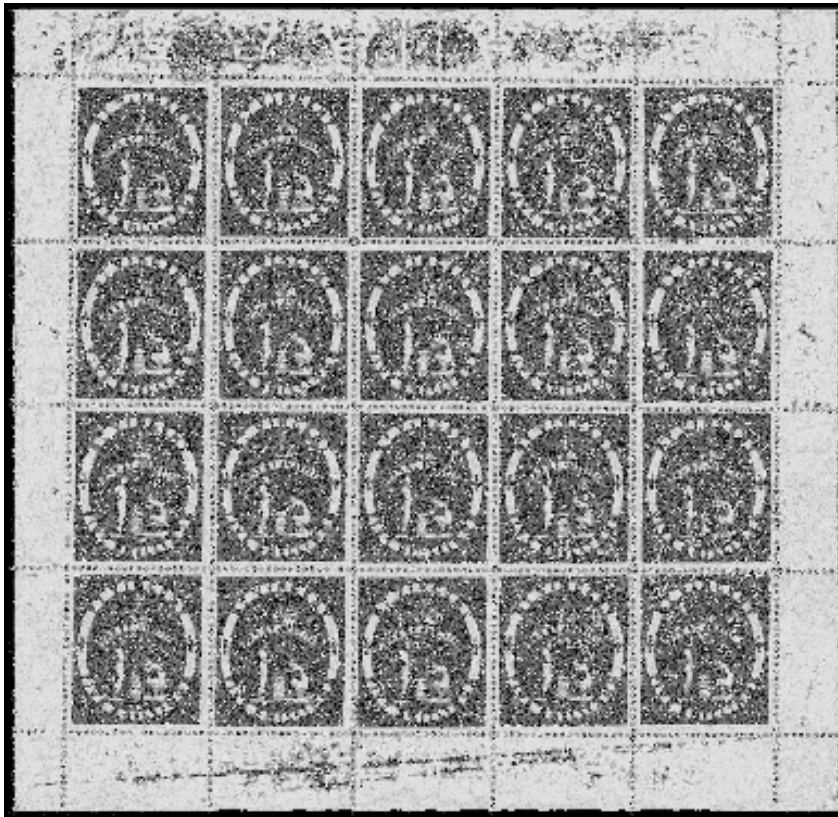
Stock		Price	Stock		Price
23048	QV 1/2d claret Post Card headed "Gordon Town June 4 1880" showing fine GOVERNMENT-PRINTING-ESTABLISHMENT d/ring dated JUN 5 1880 addressed to same at Kingston with stamp design pmk'd Kingston JU 5 80 cds. Some minor toning.	£30	23269	1895 local cover to Browns Town P.O. with QV 1d (SG.27) tied Kingston AP 18 95 d/ring with very fine scarcer large half moon <b>TOO LATE</b> .	£80
24887	1880 cover to Mrs. Wm. Schiller, Moneague Tavern, Moneague with horiz. pair QV 2d rose CC (SG.9) tied "A01" with Kingston, Moneague, and violet C. LALOUBERE & Co. d/ring all dated JY 23 80 on face.	£125	23215	QV 1d blue UPU Post Card pmk'd Kingston JA 31 96 to <b>Guatemala</b> .	£14
23096	" <b>A.28</b> " (M) used ANNOTTO-BAY A/AU 12 80, good clear strikes on QV 1d blue Post Card to W.B. Espent, Buff Bay.	£48	23230	Canada QV 1c black Post Card with fine hand-struck " <b>RETURNED-FOR-POSTAGE</b> " with added QV 1c yellow pmk'd Toronto SP 30 and OC 1 97 to Kingston, superb 2W/OC 14 97 arrival d/ring.	£48
26234	1881 (MR 1) incoming cover to Pedro P.O. with GB QV 1d Venetian red horiz. strip of four.	£90	23103	QV 1d blue UPU Post Card pmk'd Kingston 4F/NO 23 97 d/ring to Newera Eliya, <b>Ceylon</b> with London and arrival marks. Unusual destination.	£20
23328	<b>MOUNT CHARLES</b> OC 20 82 (25mm cds), clear strike above address on QV 1d blue Post Card pmk'd Kingston IV G/OC 19 82 cds to J.A. Stephens, Mt. Charles.	£30	23225	1900 portion of Jamaica Mutual printed report to Port Antonio with QV 1/2d green tied Kingston 4 D/FE 26 00 d/ring showing Returned Letter Branch and arrival d/ring.	£18
29266	QV 1/2d on 3d UPU Post Card to Bedford, UK with design pmk'd clear upr. "193" numeral with COLD SPRING 8 JU 83 cds alongside.	£125	23043	1901 cover from W.T. Wood & Son in Bedford mailed with GB QV 1d lilac to B. Daniels in Kingston with Bedford FE 12, Kingston MR 1, Cold Spring MR 1, AP 1, AP 2, Kingston AP 1, AP 3, and RETURNED LETTER BRANCH 28 MY 01 cancels. Advertised and unclaimed h/stamps and various m/script endorsements.	£125
23141	" <b>A.60</b> " (M) used at OCHO-RIOS 6 FE 85, mostly good strikes on face QV 1d blue Post Card to G.F. Judah, Spanish Town. Seemingly rare as only two entires recorded by me to date.	£90	23198	1907 reg. foolscap cover (226 x 103mm) to Hull with QV 6d dull orange MCA (SG.51, Cat.£25.00) tied fine Registered d/ring oval (RC 9) JU 25 07.	£50
24047	1887 (JA 25) single rate cover to Birmingham "via New York" with vert. pair QV 2d slate.	£20	24888	B/w ppc "Bananas ready for cutting" (Duperly 12 73560) with KGV 1d pmk'd Kingston OC 13 17 machine to Holland. Fine magenta boxed "PASSED BY NAVAL/CENSOR" h/stamp.	£48
23138	" <b>A.82</b> " (M) used at MIDDLE-QUARTERS C/AP 8 87, fair clear strikes on QV 1d blue Post Card headed "Mulgrove, Black River P.O." to Justin McCarthy, Booksellers, Kingston. Only five entires currently recorded.	£65	23228	1919 local cover to Hayes with KGV 1 1/2d WAR STAMP (SG.74) tied May Pen MR 3 19.	£14
23054	" <b>647</b> " used at SOUTH-FIELD B C/NO 11 87, fair only clear numeral and good cds on QV 1d blue Post Card headed "Plains" to the Rev. W. Magnan, Ramble P.O. Some mild toning. Rare, only four entires currently recorded for the 1884 to 1891 period.	£65	26226	LUCKY HILL (violet TRD 21) "16.5.1921", fine full upr. strike tying inverted placed 1 1/2d Contingent on local cover to Kingston.	£125
23137	" <b>A58</b> " (J) used at BLUEFIELDS JA 25 (88), clear strikes on face QV 1d blue Reply portion Post Card written Salem to Mrs. Walder at Shooter's Hill P.O. Rare, only five entires currently recorded.	£65	23263	1930 (DE 10) FFC Kingston 8d rate to England with added GB KGV 1d, 1 1/2d for re-direction to <b>Belgium</b> .	£24
23191	" <b>A57</b> " used at MORANT-BAY A/DE 14 88 per backstamp, clear strike on QV 2d slate (SG.20a) on cover to Henry Vendryes, Kingston arriving the following day. Some light toning.	£48	23227	1930 (DE 10) FFC Kingston 10 1/2d rate to San Juan, Porto Rico <b>signed</b> by Pilot & Master Wallace D. Culbertson.	£30
23049	Printed "Municipal Election, Kingston" text on reverse QV 1/2d claret Post Card mailed within Kingston AP 30 91. Advertised, Unclaimed, Returned Letter Branch h/stamps. Attractive.	£40	23146	1934 attractive commercial cover to Germany with KGV 1/2d, 1d, 1/- Statue tied Kingston 3 R/OC 15 34 d/rings with two red strikes segmented (plane)/Luftpostamt/Koln-Flughafen cachets on address panel.	£24
23260	" <b>A59</b> " used at NEWPORT A/6 JY 91, clear strikes and latest recorded use on entire on QV 1/2d red-brown Post Card to Miss Prendergast in Kingston. Advertised, Returned Letter Branch and other endorsements. A little damaged at lower left.	£55	24760	"OBSERVED TO BE/IN BAD CONDITION/ G.P.O. KINGSTON, JAMAICA" violet boxed h/stamp struck front and rear of commercial cover to Chicago. Face with Hayes MR 20 37 d/ring and GAYLE reg. label changed in m/script to Hayes. Reverse with pmk'd KGV 1/2d, pair 2d Coco Palms plus full "G/crown/R" Found opened (or damaged) etc label.	£85
24320	1892 (SP 5) cover to Glasgow with QV 2 1/2d (SG.29) clearly tied "A76" (type O). B/stamped Spanish Town, Kingston, Glasgow (SP 21 92).	£60	29433	1942 (NO 7) Internment Camp card from "947, Hans Stork" to Buffalo, two violet cachets.	£20
26365	" <b>A47</b> " used at HOPE-BAY A/OC 5 92, fine strikes on QV 1 1/2d slate UPU Reply Card portion from sender at "Buff Bay River 3 Oct 1892" to Mrs. D. Seath in Montreal, Canada. Some light creasing but a very difficult office on entire.	£95	28979	1958 cover to Massachusetts with Costa Rica 10c tied Paquebot-Kingston MR 30 58 d/ring, superb violet m/s "ELSIE WINCK" handstamp.	£24
23261	QV 1/2d red-brown Post Card uprated with QV 1/2d green (SG.16a) pmk'd Kingston 4E/MR 20 94 d/r to Sneek, <b>Holland</b> .	£18			

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## **JAMAICA**

### **HIGHWAY TRAVELLING POST OFFICES**

**BY STEVE JARVIS & BOB SWARBRICK**

#### **Introduction.**

Tom Foster drafted a chapter of a proposed second volume to the Postal History of Jamaica, in 1971, concerning the Highway Travelling Post offices in Jamaica. These T.P.O.s operated during the 1960s and a series of hand stamp markings were utilised. Although a number of notable collectors have copies of this draft chapter (indeed a copy exists in the BWISC library) we are not aware of it having been formally published. What appears to be a master copy (as the maps are pen and ink, in colour) was inherited from the late Michael Vokins with a few additional pages of corrections.

Prompted by Bob Swarbrick, the following article seeks to resurrect Tom's paper and enhance it with the help of other collectors.

- It must be remembered that at the time Tom researched his paper, there was great reliance on tracing of post marks and free-hand drawing, which inevitably led to inaccuracies. (Tom's paper did not illustrate all marks)
- There is a strong possibility that the date range of the strikes can now be extended
- The numbering classification used by Tom was confusing e.g. his type Type HTP04 (the style of handstamp) could have 'T.P.O. 2' in the heading!

We therefore present an edited version of Tom's paper, supplemented with information and images from the collections of the authors and Derek Sutcliffe.

#### **Foster Introduction**

In the late 1950's, in an attempt to effect certain badly needed economies and increase efficiency, the Jamaica Post Office enlisted the co-operation of British postal experts to organise a working study of the postal services and administration, their recommendations resulting in a series of Travelling Post Offices being established from 1961 onwards, which were intended to operate between several of the larger centres of population. These T.P.O.'s picked up and conveyed closed mail between agencies and main offices and did a certain amount of sorting on each journey, especially forward sorting to offices and agencies lying immediately beyond the various terminal points. Each van was equipped with a letter box, into which letters could be posted, when the van had halted in a village and after the mail had closed. None of the units offered a counter service to the public. Five Travelling Post Offices were organised, the details and postal markings used by them being as follows:-

#### **The Routes**

Tom Foster identified 5 routes:

- 1 Mandeville – Savannah La Mar and return.
- 2 Kingston – St. Ann's Bay and return.
- 3 Montego Bay – St. Ann's Bay and Return
- 4 Corporate Area of Kingston and St Andrew
- 5 Kingston scheme

These route numbers will be utilised for the prime classification of markings with a suffix letter applied for each variation of handstamp identified on the route.

The EKD / LKD are presented as two dates the first being Foster's, the second being mine to-date.

Ironically, all five travelling post offices were withdrawn from service with effect, from May 14th 1966, the official reason given being "in the interests of efficiency and economy"!

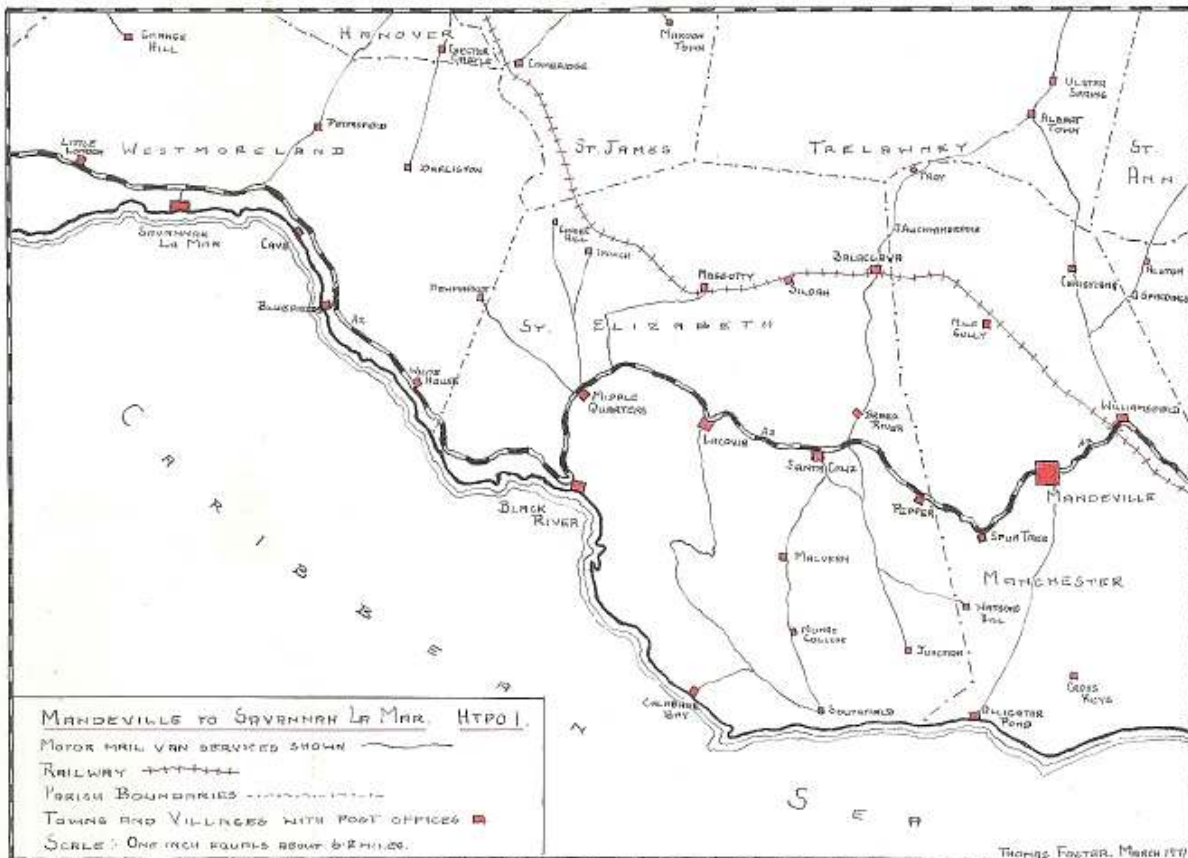


**HTPO1 - Mandeville – Savannah La Mar and Return.**

This service began on 1st June 1961 and consisted of a large modern mail van of steel construction, with a compartment for mail sorting and another of big storage capacity for carrying sealed bags, staffed by two postmen, Grade "A".

The T.P.O. operated on the main A2 road between the termini, picking up and delivering closed mails from and to the Kingston G.P.O., and open mail including registered, from offices and agencies en route. The staff sorted mail for offices directly beyond Savannah La Mar and Mandeville in order to expedite forward despatch from those points. The van was returned to Kingston from Mandeville and during the journey, sorted mail for the eighteen post offices of the Kingston Corporate Area (The Kingston Corporate Area comprises the parish and City of Kingston and a large part of the surrounding parish of St. Andrew, usually called Lower St. Andrew. The offices referred to are the main offices of the eighteen Kingston Postal Districts established on 1st February 1958. See Appendix "B").

Letters posted at offices and agencies after the mail had closed could be posted in the letter box provided on the van and were date-stamped by the sorter. Evidence of the practice is seldom found and all markings of this unit are scarce. Three successive date stamps, were employed, all of the Temporary Rubber type and struck in purple ink: -

**HTPO1A**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame oval:  
 Top wording: "T.P.O."  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: High at 3 o'clock and high at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 1 Jun 1961 SJ: 28 Oct 1961  
 LKD: TF: 23 Jul 1963 SJ: 28 Oct 1961

Favour strikes exist, usually in a very worn condition with the dateline of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1963 inverted.

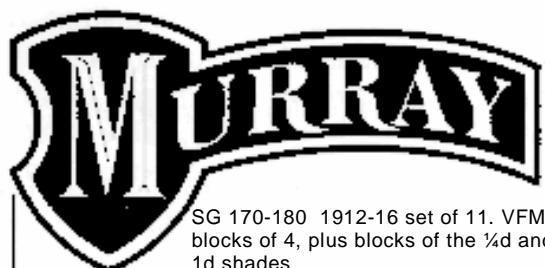
**HTPO1B**

Type: TRD46  
 Frame oval:  
 Top wording: "T.P.O."  
 Bottom wording: Mandeville – Savanna La-mar  
 (upper and lower case letters)  
 Asterisks: In line at 3 o'clock and at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: Aug 1963 SJ: 21 Feb 1964  
 LKD: TF: 21 Jan 1966 SJ: 6 Jul 1965

Later impressions are always worn and distorted.

**HTPO1C**

Type: TRD46  
 Frame oval:  
 Top wording: "T.P.O."  
 Bottom wording: MANDEVILLE SAVANNA-LA-MAR  
 (serif capital letters)  
 Asterisks: At 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 9 Feb 1966 SJ: 19 Mar 1966  
 LKD: TF: 14 May 1966 SJ: 13 May 1966



SG 170-180 1912-16 set of 11. VFM blocks of 4, plus blocks of the ½d and 1d shades	
SG 248c, 249c	1942 ½d bistre and 1d green perf 14. VFUM coil-join strips of 4
SG 249c	1942-47 1d perf 14. VFUM corner block of 18, R8/8 line on shoulder, R9/10 re-entry
SG 250ca	1941-43 2d claret. VFUM bottom two rows, R11/9 extra frameline and 12/1 partly missing frameline
SG 250d	1943 2d perf 14. VFUM part imprint and Plate no. block of 10, showing R11/9 extra frameline corrected
SG 251a	1938 2½d. VFUM marginal block of 10, R3/3 mark on ornament
SG 252c	1947 3d blue. VFUM corner block of 10, R1/1 flaw on right '3'
CW 10b	1947 3d ultramarine. VFUM positional block of 8, R4/10 line over horse's head corrected

£295

£20

£12

£35

£10

£20

£10

£10

£40

## Barbados

CW 11	1938 4d perf 13. VFUM corner block of 25, R8/10 shading at base omitted. Clearly from the 1938 printing with brown gum	£50
SG 255	1938 1/- olive-green. FUM block of 4, centred left and with brown gum	£38
SG 255	1938 1/- olive-green. FUM part imprint block of 6	£65
CW SP S4-5	1939 Tercentenary of Assembly set of 5, perforated 'Specimen'. Mint, faults	£20
CW 25c	1947 1d on 2d perf 13½ x 13. VFM, R7/ or 11/4 broken 'E'	£50
SG 262a	1946 1½d Victory. VFUM corner block of 10, R5/2 'two flags' on launch	£15
SG D4-6	1950 ordinary paper Postage Due set of 3. VFUM	£20
SG D12-D13	1974 Postage Due 2ct and 6ct watermark sideways. VFUM marginal blocks of 4	£15

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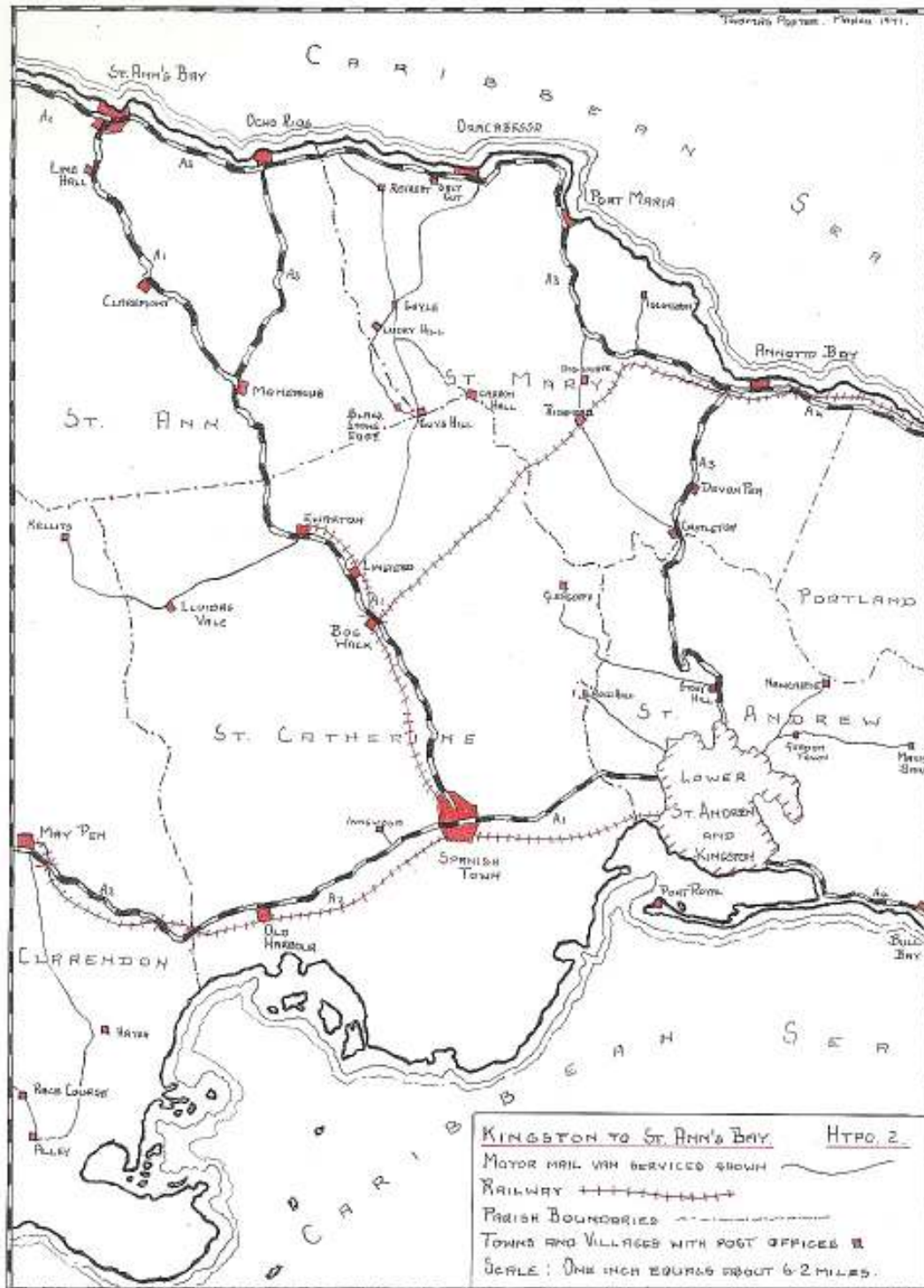
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## HTPO2 - Kingston – St. Ann's Bay and Return.

This unit commenced operations on 2nd April 1962 using the same equipment and establishment as Highway T.P.O.1. It was operated in a similar manner and served all the offices and small agencies along the main A1 road from Kingston through Spanish Town to St. Ann's Bay. In its later years it assisted in clearing mail from offices of the corporate area of Kingston and for this additional duty, often used a smaller van.

Four rubber datestamps were employed, the first being uncommon, whilst the other three are very common and usually found on Kingston mail. All were struck in purple ink.





**HTPO2A**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 2  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA W I  
 Asterisks: High at 3 o'clock and low at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 2 Apr 1962 SJ: 20 Feb 1964  
 LKD: TF: 2 Dec 1965 SJ: 23 Jul 1965

**HTPO2B**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval Small break in the inner oval frame-line below the 'O' of 'T.P.O.'  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 2  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA (1mm gap from inner oval)  
 Asterisks: Low at 3 o'clock, in line at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 20 Jul 1963 SJ: 29 Aug 1964  
 LKD: TF: 9 Apr 1965 SJ: 3 May 1965

Note: the outer double oval shows signs of wear and often appears as a single frame line.

**HTPO2C**

Type: TRD37.  
 Frame Oval Small break between the letters 'A' and 'I' of 'JAMAICA'  
 Top wording: T. P. O. 2  
 Bottom wording: 'JAMAICA' (no gap from inner oval)  
 Asterisks: At 4 and 8 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 1 May 1965 SJ: 30 Jun 1965  
 LKD: TF: 23 Jul 1965 SJ: 6 Aug 1965

**HTPO2D**

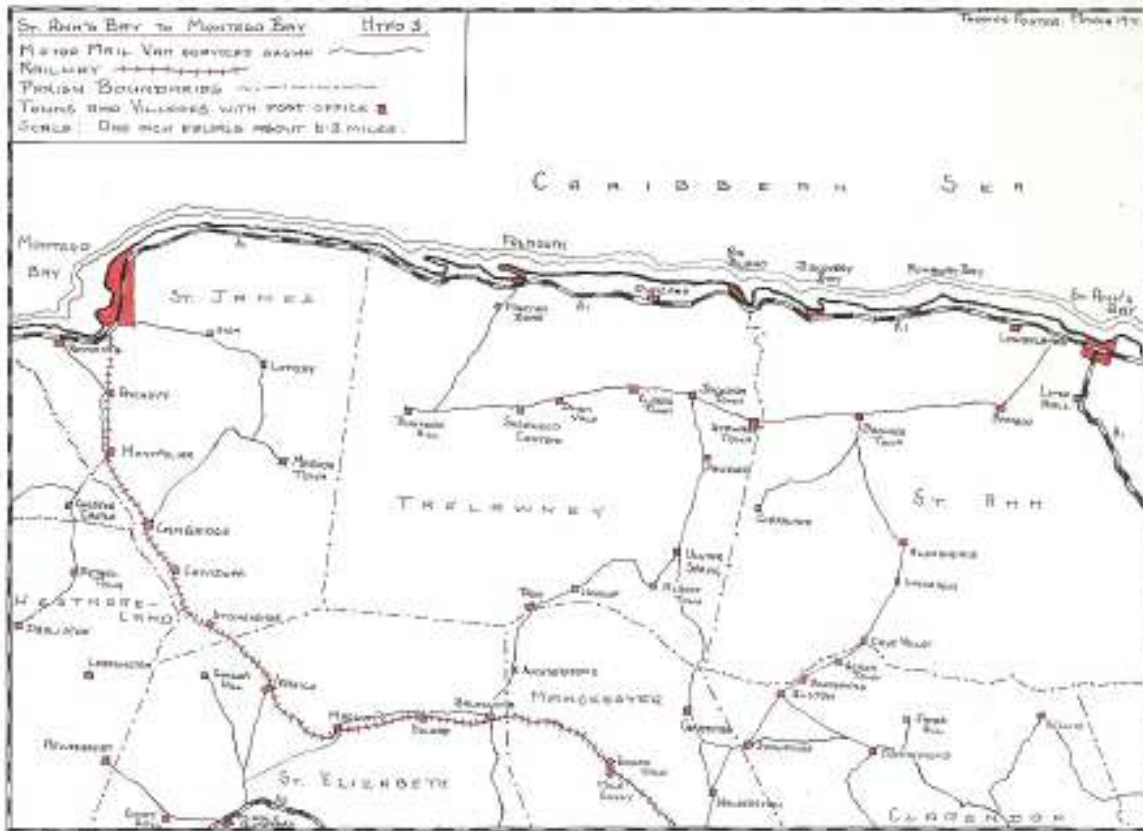
Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval Break between the letters 'P' and 'O' of 'T.P.O.'  
 Top wording: T. P. O. 2  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA' (no gap from inner oval)  
 Asterisks: Still at 4 and 8 o'clock but both spaced away from inner frame line  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 23 Sep 1965 SJ: 15 Sep 1965  
 LKD: TF: 14 May 1966 SJ: 24 Feb 1966

Wear and tear often make it unreadable.

**HTPO3 - Montego Bay – St. Ann's Bay and Return**

This unit also began operations on 2nd April 1962 with the same equipment and establishment, and worked the main A1 road between the places mentioned. One of its main tasks was the forward sorting of mail destined for outstations of Montego Bay and offices and agencies on secondary routes beyond that town.

Seven types of temporary rubber datestamp were used and struck in purple ink, most if not all of them being very scarce and rarely seen.

**HTPO3A**

Type: TRD61  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 3  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA W.I.  
 Asterisks: In line at 3 o'clock and at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 1 Apr 1962 SJ: 2 Dec 1963  
 LKD: TF: May 1963 SJ: 2 Dec 1963

Very rare, almost always a very poor strike (hence the reconstructed image above)

**HTPO3B**

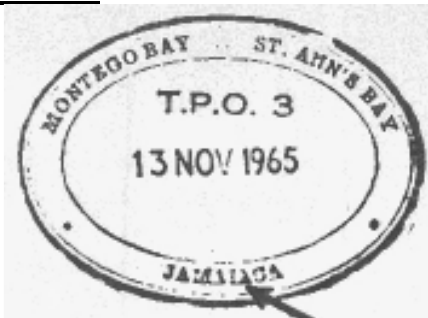
Type: TRD46  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: MONTEGO BAY – ST. ANN'S BAY  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: None  
 Centre: "T.P.O." placed above the date  
 EKD: TF: Jan 1964 SJ: 22 Jun 1964  
 LKD: TF: 12 Oct 1965 SJ: 22 Jun 1964

**HTPO3C**

Could be a very worn version of HTPO3B.

TRD46

Frame Oval: All wording in oval very blurred  
 Top wording: MONTEGO BAY - ST. ANN'S BAY  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: At 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock but oblique strokes  
 Centre: T.P.O. (no 3 visible) placed above the date which is underlined  
 EKD: TF: SJ: 14 Aug 1965  
 LKD: TF: SJ: 31 Aug 1965

**HTPO3D**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: MONTEGO BAY .. ST. ANN'S BAY  
 in smaller letters  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA (mis-spelled)  
 Asterisks: At 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock  
 Centre: T.P.O. 3 placed above the date  
 EKD: TF: 10 Nov 1965 SJ: 9 Nov 1965  
 LKD: TF: 13 Nov 1965 SJ: 13 Nov 1965

Four days after the earliest date of usage recorded for this mark, a group of collectors who were visiting Montego Bay Post Office to study the van service system, noticed the error in an example of the dater shown to them. The Postmaster at Kingston ordered the offending dater to be removed from service and a replacement dater obtained. Favour strikes exist dated 13<sup>th</sup> November, normal postal usage on earlier dates are very rare.

**HTPO3E**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 3  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: At 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 16 Nov 1965 SJ: 16 Nov 1965  
 LKD: TF: 16 Nov 1965 SJ: 16 Nov 1965

Never put into use, possibly because of the rapid provision of the following type.

Foster records: Undated proof strikes exist, struck on light card, the "J" of "JAMAICA" always being missing. However, the above example from the Swarbrick collection shows correct lettering.

**HTPO3F**

HTP03C  
 But "JAMA"  
 (last four letters of the word excised)

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 3  
 Bottom wording: "JAMA"  
 last four letters of the word excised  
 Asterisks: At 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 21 Nov 1965 SJ:  
 LKD: TF: Dec 1965 SJ:

**HTPO3G**

TRD46

Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: MONTEGO BAY - ST. ANN'S BAY  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: At 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock  
 Centre: T.P.O. 3 placed above the date  
 EKD: TF: 20 Dec 1965 SJ: 22 Dec 1965  
 LKD: TF: 14 May 1966 SJ: 4 Apr 1966

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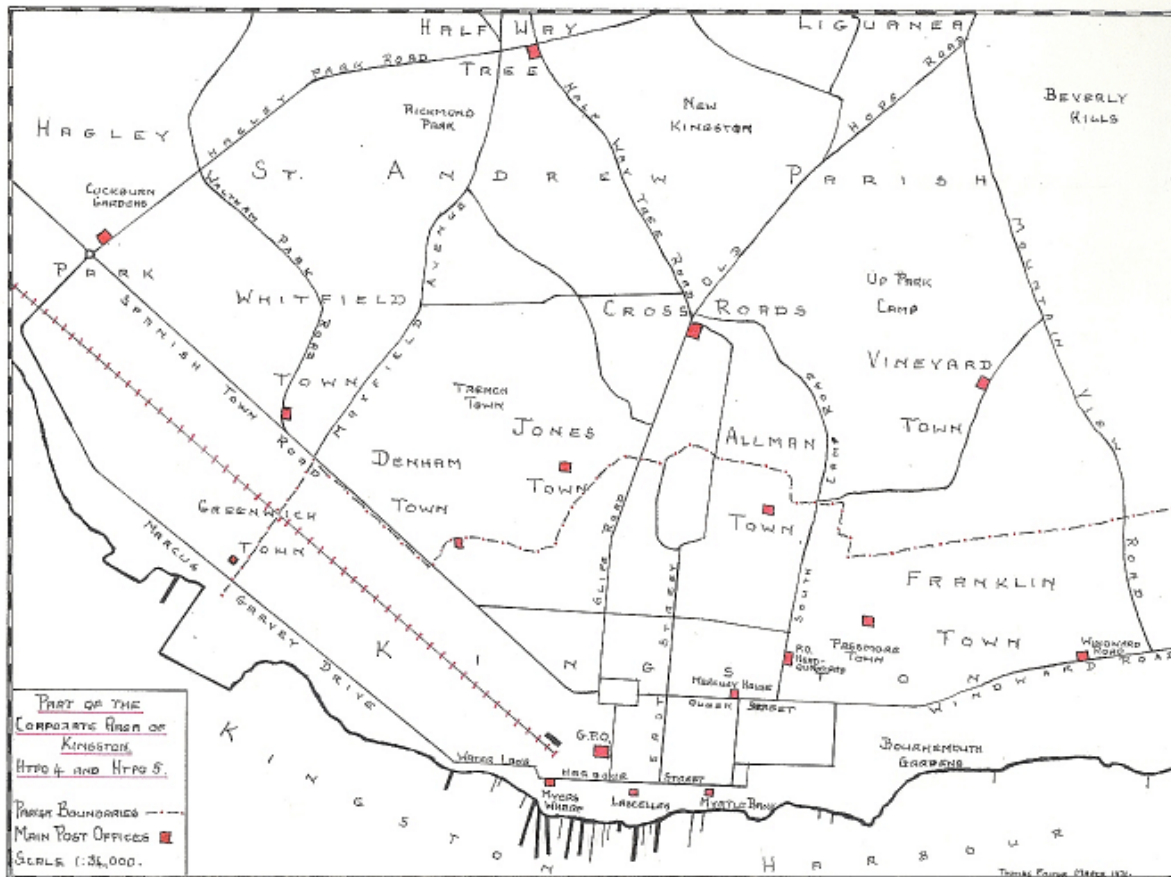
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### HTPO4 - Corporate Area of Kingston and St Andrew

This was an experimental service which did not commence until 25th March 1963. It was operated with a smaller type mail van and was manned in the morning by only one Grade "A" postman, in its capacity of exchanging closed mails between the offices of Halfway Tree, Cross Roads, Allman Town, Franklin Town, Vineyard Town and Windward Road, in both directions.

In the afternoon, it took on a staff of three postmen and proceeded to clear street letter boxes in the corporate area beyond the inner belt of the G.P.O., boxes with heavy postings being especially selected. This system was inaugurated in order to limit overtime hours being worked, the letters being postmarked and sorted on a 48 compartment frame during the operation. Four rubber daters were employed, struck in purple ink.



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**HTPO4A**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: "T.P.O.-4" at the top  
 (with hyphen between 'T.P.O.' and '4')  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: Low at 3 o'clock, in line at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 25 Mar 1963 SJ: 25 Mar 1963  
 LKD: TF: 4 Sep 1963 SJ: 19 Oct 1963

**HTPO4B**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval: a slight displacement of the inner  
 frame-line below the 'O' of 'T.P.O.'  
 Top wording: "T.P.O.-4" at the top (with hyphen)  
 but distorted  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: oblique strokes in line at 3 o'clock and  
 at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: SJ: 29 May 1964  
 LKD: TF: SJ: 23 Jul 1964

Not uncommon.

**HTPO4C**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval: break of the inner frame-line below  
 the 'O' of 'T.P.O.'  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 4 without hyphen 24 mm  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: ??? at 3 o'clock in line at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 28 Oct 1964 SJ: 26 Oct 1964  
 LKD: TF: 19 Feb 1965 SJ: 26 Oct 1964

**HTPO4D**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval: break and displacement of the inner  
 frame-line below the 'O' of 'T.P.O.'  
 Top wording: T.P.O. 4 without hyphen 17 mm  
 'P' of 'T.P.O.' slopes to the right  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: Low at 3 o'clock, in line at 9 o'clock  
 Distorted to oblique strokes in later  
 impressions  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 27 Aug 1964 SJ: 12 Aug 1964  
 LKD: TF: 14 May 1966 SJ: 24 Jul 1965

This dater is usually found in a very worn state in later years, commonly known used.

**HTPO5 - Kingston Scheme**

The last of the new units and brought into service on 1st May 1963. Its duties consisted of the clearance of all street letter boxes within the corporate area, sorting and postmarking being carried out at the same time. Only one datestamp was used, struck in purple ink.

**HTPO5A**

Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: "T.P.O.-5" with hyphen before the "5"  
 Bottom wording: JAMAICA  
 Asterisks: Low at 3 o'clock, in line at 9 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: 1 May 1963 SJ: 21 May 1963  
 LKD: TF: 14 May 1966 SJ: 25 Jul 1964

Official proof strikes exist struck on small pieces of paper and dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 1963.

Showing considerable signs of wear during its last two years of use when it was commonly found on Kingston mail.

**HTPO6 – New Kingston Scheme**

This strike was applied after Foster's article was published, any information concerning the resurrection of the service would be welcomed.



Type: TRD37  
 Frame Oval:  
 Top wording: T. P. O.  
 Bottom wording: KINGSTON  
 Asterisks: At 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock  
 Centre: Date DD MMM YYYY  
 EKD: TF: n/a SJ: 25 Feb 1977  
 LKD: TF: n/a SJ: 25 Feb 1977

**The Post Vans**

Post Van on Route 2  
 Photo courtesy of Bob Swarbrick



Post Van on Route 3  
 Photo courtesy of Bob Swarbrick

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO****FOR THE RECORD****BY D. C. FORD**

From time to time the tyro will comment on stamps used philatelically. Perhaps the following will add to the history of postage stamp usage, of a rate which is over the published maximum rate, yet paid the correct postage, as interpreted by me and the Postmistress at the time.

On 1 November 1966 Dr. Eric Gairy, the Prime Minister of Grenada, toyed with joining Trinidad and Tobago on a Unitary State Platform. Grenada as part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency group was using E. C. C. banknotes. During the period, as a result of the political uncertainty, there was a shortage of E. C. C. banknotes in Grenada and the local bank there asked its Head Office in Trinidad to send them some notes to enable paper currency to be available for local use. (At the time the E. C. C. notes and those of Trinidad were of equal value.)

I was directed to send a quantity of notes to Grenada. These were in sealed packs as issued by the printers, 1,000 notes per bundle, of varying denominations. Now it was convenient to wrap two bundles for each package, of which there were ten packages in all.

All was well until on reaching the Post Office I discovered that the weight exceeded the maximum weight for airmail, which I recall was one kilo. After explaining to the Postmistress that it was not possible to split the currency sealed bundles, there was the problem of calculating the rate for posting each package. I suggested that she extended the rate similar to the rate charged for the previous rate under one kilo. Fortunately I was persuasive enough to get an agreement to this.

My friend in Grenada informed me that the portion of the wrapper that I have was the only example to survive whole, with the stamps undamaged. The stamps total T.T.\$51.35. I was happy to take his word for it on receiving the item, a copy of which is here displayed. The cancel is somewhat indistinct, but it is Port of Spain 7 Nov 1966.

Later Grenada reverted to using E. C. C. notes and nothing was heard further of this little interlude. However I am still happy at having had the opportunity of making a little postage stamp history, which was not philatelic!!!





**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND****Shreves 27 June**

This sale was certainly the highlight of the quarter and may prove to be the highlight of the year. 451 choice lots of Virgin Islands postal history and of Grenada classic philately were bitterly fought over. Yours truly was one of many phone bidders and this was the first time I have been on the phone for more than a few lots - a tiring experience it is, though time flies by. The two collections were unparalleled in their field, each compiled by discriminating collectors who are also experienced judges and so well aware of how to compile an impressive exhibit. Dan Walker's collection of Grenada to 1908 was almost as complete as you could achieve for a BWI country, and it justly achieved many top awards. The Virgin Islands is a tremendous challenge for the postal historian and the absence of any quantity of stamped early covers makes it very difficult to present in a positive manner, but Peter McCann managed to assemble a formidable array of rare and interesting material. As described in the catalogue, each collection had its fair share of what is euphemistically termed "preserved" covers. The repairs, however, had been expertly done and this ensured prices that rarely reflected that the item had been repaired.

The **Virgin Islands** was sold first and this went through relatively fast because many estimates were too high and there was little competitive bidding. The total of the posted prices was \$85k compared with lower estimates of almost \$100k (lesson for sellers: let the auction house decide the estimates; if they are too low, there may be a few bargains but there will be many more where bidding frenzy takes prices above their level).

The first "big" item was the large size Tortola of 1787, which went for \$7,250 (all prices exclude the 10% premium). The italic Tortola of 1798 was I thought fully priced at \$2,000, and so were some of the early 1800 marks, which attracted interest perhaps because they included relatively few from the well-known Walters correspondence. But there were bargains among the large sizes of the two-line Tortola in the 1840s, which post-date the Walters correspondence so are rarely seen. The GB 1d pair cancelled A13 was I thought expensive at \$5,250 for an average strike and the early stamped covers sold well, especially the first keyplate franking of 1884 at \$2,900. Here again though, the prices were mostly way below their estimates. Later on, many lots were going at not much more than half lower estimate, with the exception of the most attractive markings, such as the provisional uses of the crowned circles and the TRD covers.

If the Virgin Islands found willing buyers, the sale really took off with **Grenada**, the 328 lots taking almost four hours to find a home for a total of \$520k. From the outset there was a macho bidder, represented by Colin Fraser, who eventually bought about 70% of the overall value, an astonishing percentage in today's competitive markets - but not so surprising when the same person was seen bidding for a Rembrandt the following week! However, it left many frustrated buyers scrambling for the gems he did not need. Throughout the sale there were record prices, starting with the better preadhesives such as the unique italic straightline Grenada and the two line Ship letter at \$6,250 each, the Carriacous at \$4,500 (the straightline) and \$3,250 (the cds) and the two best crowned circles at \$3,500 each. The GB used were no cheaper, headed by the 1/- cover at \$10,000. The first stamp, the lovely 1d blue green ex Dale, but without gum, went for \$5,500 and the Rowland Hill 6d cancelled for \$9,500. Later on there were two highpoints, the bisects that fetched very high prices on piece plus \$14,000 for each of the two covers, and the amazing assortment of "Postage" manuscripts that sold for a total of \$108,000, including \$37,500 for the "A" cover. I was hopeful that the pace would slacken and my patience rewarded when the classics were over, but bargains continued to be few to the end.

Shreves proved what can be achieved by skilful marketing, including London viewing that several BWISC members were able to take advantage of, though some of the Grenada collectors may now wonder whether it was worth their trouble.

**Harmers London 8 July**

The "Koh-i-Nor" specimen collection might not merit a mention in this column but for its inclusion of a number of specimens in "reconstructed" blocks of four. The collector, a European apparently, had sought out pairs and strips (by no means easy to come by) and had "rejoined" them with great care and precision to form visually striking blocks. There was no evidence that the pairs had originally been se-tenant but they appeared almost perfectly aligned and the colours also seemed to match very well, a testimony to the very fresh quality of the material. Some experts turned up

their nose at their artificial treatment but philately is a visual hobby and it would be a challenge to find two pairs of any specimen in the condition exhibited here. The hammer prices for the blocks did not seem outrageous to me and there were also a number of rare plate flaws among the single specimens.

### Upcoming events

Three highlights in October to look forward to. On 11th David Druett will hold a live **Pennymead** sale at the Bonnington Hotel in London featuring selected elements of Swetland **Antigua**, Walker **Grenada**, Oliver **Leeward Is**, a "Yorkshire Collector's" **St Vincent** classics and McCann **Virgin Is** postal history. The Grenada and Virgin Is are the more specialised parts of the two collections sold at Shreves. Mike Oliver's Leeward Is sounds like the highlight, with lovely essay and proof material, specialised Sexagenaries, small keyplates galore and fine postal history including stationery. David says he will have the lots on view at Leamington between mid-morning on Saturday and early Sunday.

Also on 11th, in Ridgewood NJ, Phoebe MacGillivray will hold another **Victoria Stamp Company** sale at which there will as usual be plenty of enticing BWI items including a fine Bermuda collection.

The third event in October, as my last column foreshadowed, is the sale at **Spink** of the Leuhusen **Bermuda** on 29 October followed by the Frazer BWI on the 30th. David Parsons kindly let me take a peek at the Leuhusen and I can confirm that it is a collection of great depth including many items with Tucker or Ulrich provenance. There are two Perots, a marvellous selection of provisionals on cover, headed by the Moncrieff cover, a large range of stamped and unstamped covers, keyplates galore and plenty of specialised material such as essays and proofs of the Docks and GV period in particular. I was surprised to find that the quality is quite variable, inevitable perhaps with such a large accumulation, but it means there will be something there for every purse.

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<b>Dominica</b>	1947 KGVI 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/- blk four	£70	<b>St Vincent</b>	KGVI 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, £1 blks 4 £85
<b>Falkland Islands</b>				
	1912 KGV ½d-£1 (11 val)	£450		1933 Centenary 5/-, 10/-, £1 (L/M) £1400
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